

Claims

- [c1] 1.A method of accessing a device connected to a local area network (LAN) with a remote apparatus, the method comprising:
- providing a router to control data traffic received and transmitted by the LAN, the router being assigned a public internet protocol (IP) address for communicating with an external network;
 - consulting a forwarding table stored in the router to determine a private IP address and a corresponding public port number for each device connected to the LAN;
 - generating a portal web page with the router, the portal web page of the router containing a list of each device connected to the LAN;
 - visiting the public IP address of the router with the remote apparatus and viewing the portal web page of the router with a web browser on the remote apparatus;
 - selecting a device from the list of devices displayed on the portal web page of the router; and
 - accessing the selected device with the remote apparatus by reading the public port number corresponding to the selected device, appending the public port number to the public IP address of the router to form a public device

address, and visiting the public device address.

- [c2] 2.The method of claim 1 wherein the public device address comprises the public IP address and the public port number of the selected device separated by a colon character.
- [c3] 3.The method of claim 1 wherein only a single mouse click is needed for selecting the device from the list of devices displayed on the portal web page of the router.
- [c4] 4.The method of claim 1 wherein a login password is required to access the portal web page of the router.
- [c5] 5.The method of claim 1 wherein a login password is required to access the selected device.
- [c6] 6.The method of claim 1 wherein the selected device is an internet appliance.
- [c7] 7.The method of claim 1 wherein the selected device is a network camera.
- [c8] 8.The method of claim 1 wherein the remote apparatus is located outside the LAN on a different domain from the selected device.
- [c9] 9.The method of claim 8 wherein the remote apparatus accesses the selected device via the Internet.

[c10] 10. The method of claim 1 wherein the remote apparatus is located inside the same LAN as the selected device.